THE SIGNAL

Newsletter of the Bella Vista Radio Club

Instagram

25th ANNIVERSARY

VOL. 2, NO. 2 – MAY 2019

Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m., Highland Christian Church, 1500 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista
Club Call: N5BVA • Repeater: 147.255 +offset, pl 162.2 • Website: www.bellavistaradioclub.org

WEEKLY NETS:

3820 kHz Roundtable - Sundays @ 4 pm
147.255 Repeater Net - Wednesdays @ 8 pm
Wide Area Net - Wednesdays @ 9 pm on the N5UFO NWA Linked Repeater System

In This Issue

- A "QSO" WITH KING HUSSEIN – JY1
- WHAT IS "GREYLINING" ?
- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – WSKI
- HAM 101 – SETTING-UP YOUR FIRST HF STATION
- HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE W-A-N YET?

B V R C Officers:

PRESIDENT
Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L

VICE – PRESIDENT
Chris Deibler – KG5SZQ

SECRETARY
Wayne Patton – K5UNX

TREASURER
Marc Whittlesey – WøKYZ

TECHNICAL OFFICER
Steve Werner – K5SAW

REPEATER / CLUB CALL TRUSTEE
Fred Lemley – K5QBX

Appointed Positions:

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
Ron Evans – K5XK

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
Chuck Healy – WøCEH
Lorrie Healy – N1RNI

HAM 101
Gregg Doty – KF5ZIM

V E TESTING
Glenn Kilpatrick – WB5L

2-METER NET COORDINATOR
Chris Diebler – KG5SZQ

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR
Sheila Katz

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Don Banta – K5DB

NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY - MAY 2, 2019 - 7 PM
HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1500 FOREST HILLS BLVD.
BELLA VISTA, AR

MAY PROGRAM:

THE MAGIC MAG LOOP

A great ham with experience in many areas of the hobby, Jay Bromley – W5JAY, will be gracing us with his presence for the May program.

One of Jay's areas of particular genius is antennas, and for the May meeting, Jay is going to feature the magnetic loop antenna. If you are not familiar with the Mag-Loop, don't miss this presentation! Mag-Loops are terrific to use and you'll see why, when Jay shares this program with you!

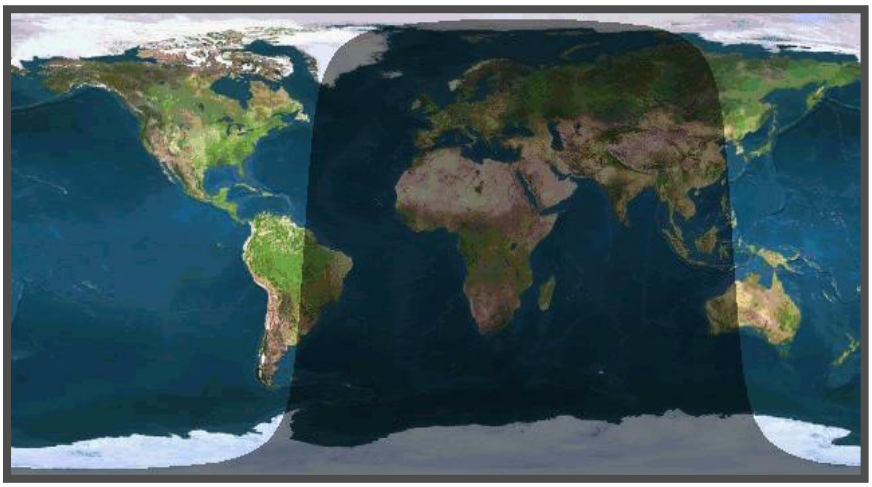
NEW BVRC CAP NOW AVAILABLE !



Bella Vista Radio Club now has a handsome hat at a very affordable price! You can greet spring with your new cap, and be ready to proudly display your new topper at Field Day! The cap is quality khaki, comes with the BVRC logo on the front, and your callsign embroidered on the side. $15 each. Order now!

For ordering information,contact:
Don Banta – K5DB
3407 Diana St.
Springdale, AR 72764
Or send Don an e-mail at:
arsk5db@gmail.com

WHAT IS 'GREYLINING' ?



For those of you who are new to a solar cycle, an interesting form of working DX is called "working the grey line." The "grey line" is a band around the Earth that separates daylight from darkness. This simply means that more times than not, you can get some very good results in working the high bands (10-, 12-, 15-, 17-, or 20-meters) during twilight hours.

Here's what happens:

During the day, solar radiation collides with the molecules in our ionosphere, ripping off electrons. These electrons are called "free electrons" because they are not attached to an atom or molecule. All these free electrons cause the density of the ionosphere to increase. The denser the ionosphere, the higher the frequency that is reflected back to earth. Our electron density is what determines the maximum usable frequency (MUF – remember that one from your Technician exam?), and the action of solar radiation separating electrons from the molecules is called *ionization*.

During the day, solar radiation causes ionization to stratify, that is, to form distinct layers. The layer closest to the earth is called the D-Layer. It does not reflect signals generally, but does absorb some of the energy, and hence the D-Layer is often called the "absorption layer." Higher up in our ionosphere, we find the E- and F-Layers. These layers *do* reflect the signals back to earth if they are below the MUF, and is exactly what causes "skip propagation." So, during the day, the sun is ionizing the D, E and F layers (there are actually two F layers, called F1 and F2). Your 20m signal must travel through the D-Layer, getting attenuated, then bounces back from the E or F layer to some exotic DX spot, passing through the D-Layer for more absorption again. But since solar radiation must travel the farthest to get the D-Layer, absorption is usually fairly minimal. So far, during the middle of the day, we have moderate absorption, and good skip propagation.



BVRC CLUB ACCESSORIES!

Show you're a proud BVRC member with:

- *Key Tags*
- *Badges*
- *Desk Name Plates*
- *Mouse pads*
- *Ceramic Mugs*
- *White & US Flag License Plates*

To order your personalized club product, click here !



AT SUNDOWN ... solar radiation no longer strikes our ionosphere right above our heads, and ionization stops. This means there is no solar radiation to form free electrons. In fact, without this solar radiation, these free electrons tend to get attracted back to recombine with their host molecules. This is called "recombination" (gee, how original!). Recombination, when it starts to get dark, causes the electron density to go down, forcing the MUF to go down as well, which is why by total darkness, 10m (and later 15 and 20m) are completely dead. The MUF is far below 28, 21, and 14 MHz.

The D-Layer is the *first* layer where ionization stops, since the sunlight no longer reaches near the surface of the earth but is still illuminating (and ionizing) the ionosphere far above our heads. (For the same reason, we can see satellites pass overhead in the early evening ... it's dark on the ground, but the satellites are still being illuminated.) As the D-Layer goes into recombination, the electron density goes down, and the absorption does down. Therefore, signals appear stronger at night, because there is less absorption by the D-Layer at night.

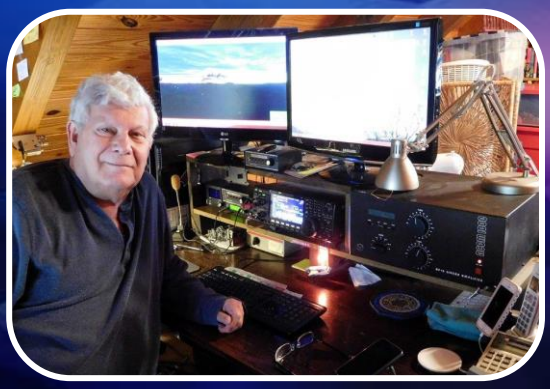
BUT!!!!! DURING TWILIGHT ... OR WHEN YOU'RE IN THE "GREY LINE" ... the D-Layer suddenly causes little absorption to signals passing through it, while the E and F layers are still being ionized by sunlight. In other words, the D-layer, which absorbs HF signals, disappears rapidly on the sunset side o the greyline, and it has not et built upon the sunrise side. ***This makes for about 45-60 minutes of interesting operating.*** There is almost no signal attenuation, but the MUF is still very high, so long-distance skip is still possible. However, when the sun quits illuminating the E and F layers, the MUF can drop dramatically ... sometimes with only a few minutes of warning, sometimes between heartbeats. So, when you establish a contact, make sure you and the other station exchange signal reports fast!

One other advantage of grey line DX is that your signals tend to reflect off the edge of the ionized portion of the upper layers. This means propagation will often be in a southerly direction, bouncing along the shadow, or terminator, between sunlight and darkness. This is good for working into South America and the South Pacific. Your signals can also bounce northward along the terminator, bending around the pole, and down the *morning terminator* across eastern Europe, the Middle East, and into Africa (depending on the time of year). So grey line DX also affords an opportunity to work portions of the world not usually accessible during the day, where propagation tends to be in more east-west circuits.

The same principles apply at sunrise. The upper ionosphere begins to become ionized, while the D-Layer is still dark and offers low absorption. So now, the grey line affects the low bands instead of the higher bands. Morning gray line can definitely be eventful on 80m and 40m, due to the low absorption before the sun starts heating the D-Layer.

Amateur operators and shortwave listeners can optimize long distance communications to various areas of the world by monitoring the grey line as it moves around the globe. So, if you want a better shot at working stations a long distance from your QTH, remember each day when your area "greylines" !

BVRC Member Spotlight



STEVE NORRIS W5KI

This month, THE SIGNAL proudly features another of BVRC's newest members, Steve Norris – W5KI.

Steve resides near Eureka Springs in beautiful Carroll County country. After graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1972, Steve entered the USAF, OTS, and Nav Training, in which he spent 20 years as a Master Navigator (C-5/C-141); Command & Control Officer (underground in Germany); Airlift Detachment Commander at Rota Naval Station, Spain; and finally in New Jersey in which he was the Transportation Squadron Commander, and ending as Executive Officer to the Wing Commander. After retiring, he stayed in the area being involved in corporate jobs in the greater Philadelphia area for 14 more years, in which he was the Director of Operations for a large retail arts & crafts company, primarily over distribution & warehousing. He also oversaw the operation of the company HQ. The final 7 years, he was Fulfillment Manager at a wholesale party supply firm in Philadelphia, in charge of customer order completion for shipment to their stores.

Steve began his ham radio journey in 1964 as WN5KUD, and upgraded to WA5KUD in 1965 when he passed his General exam. He then upgraded again to Amateur Extra in 1968. He acquired W5KI when the FCC opened-up 2-letter calls to Extra Class license holders.

Steve said, "I started out sitting on the stool for hours in front of my great-grandmother's huge, old, dark wood console radio - the one's with 15-20 bands, dim lights, with a frequency range from the broadcast band to above 10-meters. Probably 1940's era. I did broadcast band SWL DXing with AM radio from home as I got older. I have QSLs from the old AM stations from across the country, back when they sent them with reception reports. In Boy Scouts when I earned the Radio merit badge, along with some key articles I read in Boys Life about amateur radio, these caused the "DUH! Ham Radio!" light to come on. I found the local ham club in Jonesboro, got in the next Novice class, and the rest is history, hihi. That led to getting an old shortwave receiver, as my first station receiver - a Hallicrafters S-40A. If you jumped on the wood floor, it would move 10 KHz on the high bands, LOL. When I got the license and the money, I purchased a crystal-controlled Globe Scout which ran 50 watts. Later, when I got the big ol' 100-pound Heathkit DX-100 (with a VFO!), I was in tall cotton!"

Steve says that the small group of active hams in Jonesboro all helped him a lot. A few of the older guys that obtained licenses with him, progressed a little faster in building stations, so he learned a lot from them. But, the experienced older hams that were always there to answer his "millions" of questions when sitting at the local electronics store were Uel Smith – W5RWJ (SK) and Tommy Meridith – K5MEA (SK).

Steve's interests in ham radio come and go, but only in intensity. He loves all the bands and modes, but his favorite activity in the early years was CW contesting. Over the years, other key interests have been HF DXing, RTTY, and 6-meter DXing. When computers hit the mainstream, RTTY and all the digital modes became easy for all, and he has enjoyed that. Steve tries to remain "up-to-speed" on all the digital modes.

Steve's shack consists of and IC-7600, IC-7000, IC-765, Acom 1 KW amp, LDG autotuner, a Steppir BigIR vertical, M2 6M5X 5-element beam, a 2-meter 9 element beam, and multiple wire dipoles. Steve also enjoys other past times such as genealogy research, map-editing on Waze, and playing golf when he has the opportunity. Steve, it's a pleasure to have you in the BVRC family!

BVRC PRESIDENT GLENN KILPATRICK – WB5L SELECTED AS ARRL DELTA DIVISION HAM OF THE YEAR!!!

From ARRL Delta Division Director, David Norris – K5UZ:

Greetings Delta Division Members and Amateurs,

It gives us great pleasure in announcing the 2018 Delta Division Ham of the Year. We wish to thank the members of the Selection Committee for their hard work in making this decision. So, without further liturgy, I am pleased to announce that Glenn Kilpatrick-WB5L has been selected as the 2018 Delta Division Ham of the Year.

As per the nomination petition from the Bella Vista ARC we have a brief bio and list of Glenn's accomplishments:

When not serving as the President of the region's fastest growing radio club, Glenn is extremely busy professionally, serving as a Senior Systems Engineer in the Information Technology field, a demanding role requiring an ongoing 'on call' commitment.

Glenn volunteered to conceive, design, build and administer our radio club's outstanding website (URL withheld, as required). The website continues to receive ongoing accolades for its aesthetics, resources, and practical utility to our regional ham community.

As club president, he serves as an ARRL liaison and promoter, resulting in significantly increased membership among club members, and the resulting recognition and designation as an ARRL Affiliated Club.

On his own initiative, Glenn invited and secured a long personal travel visit from the ARRL Arkansas section manager to educate and promote ARRL Membership at a key monthly club meeting presentation.

He is a giver. From his personal funds, he purchases and distributes ARRL license manuals for financially strapped prospective hams, and helps to provide door prizes for club members, prospective members and future hams, given away at the conclusion of monthly meetings.

As ARRL Volunteer Examiner Liaison, he initiated VE Testing,and continues to supervise and administer monthly VE Exams, licensing and upgrading many new radio amateurs from throughout the region on an ongoing basis.

Glenn also led the club to transition from a small group and to grow into a large regional club of more than 80 licensed hams, making it the largest radio club in our region and possibly the largest active club in Arkansas.

Today, he is leading the club's efforts in developing a unique "HAM-101" project, a major local program effort involving many club members to better mentor ('Elmer') and more quickly assimilate newly licensed hams into the hobby.This continuing education program will attempt to introduce new radio amateurs to 'best practices' for operating and maximizing enjoyment of their new hobby.

As a personal example to challenge fellow amateurs to continue learning and growing within the hobby, Glenn endorses new modes and projects. Last year he enrolled in, and successfully completed, the advanced 'Level Three' of "CW Academy," conducted by the CW Ops club. This resulted in his conversational 30 WPM Morse sending and receiving speed (an improvement of more than 15 WPM).

He is extremely active on-air, in many different modes. He serves in rotation as net control and HF 'roundtable' moderator on local HF/VHF and wide area UHF nets. He also participates in several other nets, and participates in various special events, such as our state's QSO Party.

He initiated and formalized a club 'equipment loan' program for new hams who cannot afford to purchase radios, antennas, and accessories.

Glenn's leadership and hands-on efforts garnered him the local club's "2018 Ham of the Year" award. ---------- He is a "Ham's Ham."

Have You Participated in the Wide Area Net?



This addition to BVRC's weekly nets meets on Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m., following the longstanding 147.255 2-Meter Net. The W-A-N utilizes the NWA Link System of (six UHF and one VHF) repeaters, which covers Fort Smith to Springfield MO. The Wide Area Net commenced in mid-February to better communicate with the club's outlying members who cannot easily reach the BVRC 2-Meter machine.

The Net is conducted by K5XK, using BVRC's club callsign N5BVA. Ron reports that, despite the late hour, the new net has attacted 36 different stations, and averages 19-20 check-ins each week throughout Benton, Washington, Madion, Carroll, and McDonald counties. While initially in 'experimental mode', it appears interest is sufficient to make the new W-A-N a permanent fixture on our weekly calendar. Ron encourages everyone to program your radio with the various N5UFO linked repeaters (see the Club website or www.RepeaterBook.com), then tune-in at 9pm local time on Wednesdays, and give it a try. C U THEN!!!



HUH – HUH – HUH !!!
CQ, CQ
THE ARKANSAS QSO PARTY
HUH – HUH – HUH !!!



The Annual ARKANSAS QSO Party

LAST REMINDER!!!
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

SIGN-UP TO OPERATE WITH BONUS STATION N5BVA
(SEE FRED-K5QBX OR GLENN-WB5L)
AND/OR OPERATE FROM YOUR OWN QTH !
ALL THE INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW IS AT
WWW.ARKQP.COM



FROM RON – K5XK
BVRC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

N4EW – To the disappointment of other BVRC treasure seekers, Jacob won the local 'gold rush' to buy a 60-foot tower when another area ham announced that he was moving out of state.

W5XNA – Shortly after Tom completed Advanced Level 2 of 'CW Academy,' he had local on-air 80M QSOs with Ed – KCØDX and Ron – K5XK, commemorating his Morse Code achievement.

K5UNX – Wayne says he's moved-on from Linux in the ham shack and is now using Windows 10, and recently acquired N3FJP's software suite for station logging.

Sonya Dawson & Sheila Katz – have volunteered to coordinate coffee and refreshments at our monthly meetings. Thanks, ladies! Please help the ladies by bringing goodies & tasty treats!

KI5CXH – Welcome to our newest Member, Susan – KI5CXH, from Cave Springs! Tem – N5KWL and Ron – K5XK had the pleasure of being Susan's very first contact in mid-April. Thanks to programming assistance from a group of helpful hams (incl. Alan – KEØQFO & Steve – K5SAW), Susan is using a new YAESU FT-65r HT to access the NWA Link System via the Mercy repeater. Susan's Elmer is Rick – KG5MWG.

K5GJT – New member Greg, in Pea Ridge, enjoys 10 Meters and up, and is a volunteer fire fighter.

K5UNX – After completing the first level of the CW Academy, Wayne has also enrolled in an upcoming advanced level of the Academy.

KI5DUV – KG5MWG – KE0QFO – K5SAW - At the conclusion of the April club meeting, new ham/member Bonner, along with Rick, Alan & Steve have been busy assisting new hams with programming HTs.

K5QBX – As trustee of the N5BVA Club Call, Fred has produced a new QSL Card to confirm contacts from our various operations using the club call. Fred recently built a 'Hardrock 50' amp for his QRP gear, and was planning to operate in "QRP to the Field" in April.

AC5LX – Bob is recuperating after suffering cracked vertebrae requiring what doctors refer to as 'liquid concrete repair' following a fall at home.

KI5DJT – New member Scott enjoyed attending OzarkCon in Branson and has since developed a keen interest in building gear and Morse Code.

WB5L – After experiencing recent lightning damage, Glenn is enjoying a new FLEX 6400 SDR radio, and looking forward to completion of a new shop/garage beside his QTH.

K5CUT – This is Jerry, ex-KG5CUT's, new call. When not in the shack, Jerry is often found bass fishing on area lakes.

KI5DUV, KEØQFO & KCØSNY – Bonner & Alan's XYLs, Faith and Sheila, and Jeremy's fiancée Sonya Dawson, were all enrolled in the late April 'Quick Start' Technician licensing class to become new radio amateurs.

KI5DUV – After being initially licensed in February, Bonner quickly upgraded his license to General in March. Living on nearby Posey Mountain, he occasionally drives up Whitney Mountain from his QTH near Garfield on Posey Mtn to be able to check into the Club's 2 Meter Net with his HT!

NM5AB – This is new member Noel Morris, ex-KF5VPJ's, new call. Noel lives east of Springdale and is a new Amateur Extra.

KW5SVB – New member Scotty is working on a homebrew version of the TAK-tenna. Dana – AB5DD also has a commercial version of this novel HF antenna.

KG5ZBQ – When not on the air, new member Shane in Prairie Creek enjoys late night DX'ing, receiving distant AM stations on the broadcast band. Shane is also looking for a VHF/UFH 'Diplexer.'

N5SU, K5XH, WB0AUQ, K5DB, K5XK & K5GJT – John, Mark, Bob, Ron & new member Greg/K5GJT enjoyed carpooling to the Green Country Hamfest at Claremore.

KA4AFE – New member Dennis is the organizer of the popular spring and fall "Pea Ridge Swapmeet / Tailgate" at the Pea Ridge City Park. Dennis invites everyone to participate, Saturday, May 4th. See the BVRC website for a map and details.

WD9AEN – Joe Hott, formerly WD9AEN now has new callsign W5AEN!

W5HB / KD5TVX – New members John & Kim are busy embroidering caps at regional hamfests, and offer custom embroidery services via their online store, with the help of their 'harmonics.' The Robinsons are an all-ham family.

KG5MWG – Rick, or 'Ricardo' as he is sometimes known, will be visiting southern Italy and Sicily in May & June. When he's not traveling, Rick is a great ambassador, tirelessly recruiting new club members and promoting our great hobby.

K5SAW – Steve will be moving soon but is planning to stay in Bella Vista.

K5DVT – Congratulations to Jon on graduating from Huntsville High School this month. Jon is looking for an electronics internship this summer and plans to enroll in the U of A this fall. Jon is the son of proud mother, Carole – KF5OQF.

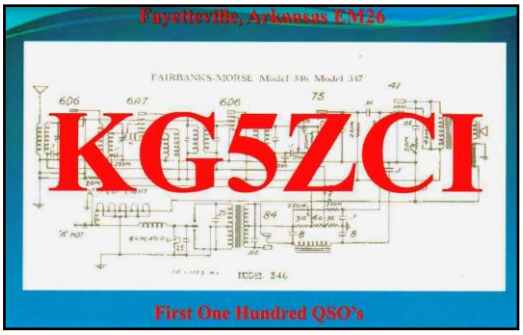
KD8VSD & K5DB – Brian, dad Gregg – KF5ZIM, and Don will be operating HF Mobile in the upcoming Arkansas QSO Party on Saturday, May 11th. They will have their trucks & mobile installations on static display at the church before the May 2nd monthly meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

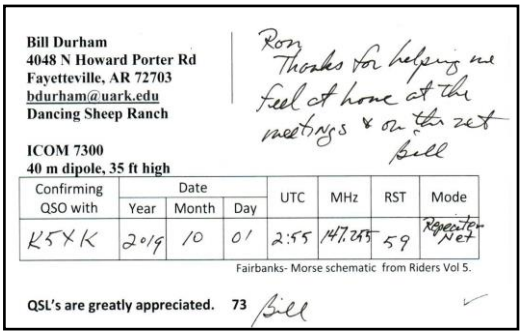
KG5ZCI Creates Nifty Homebrew QSL

Dr. Bill Durham of Fayetteville recently designed his own QSL card, which he then had printed by a Springdale commercial printer.

Bill is commemorating his first 100 QSOs by sending the card to those stations that he works.

Bill is a most interesting guy...a chemistry professor (emeritus), does metal working in his machine shop, paints beautiful water color art, and ham radio!




Bill Durham
4048 N Howard Porter Rd
Fayetteville, AR 72703
bdurham@uark.edu
Dancing Sheep Ranch

ICOM 7300
40 m dipole, 35 ft high

Ron
Thanks for helping me feel at home at the meetings & on the net
Bill

Confirming QSO with	Date			UTC	MHz	RST	Mode
	Year	Month	Day				
K5XK	2019	10	01	2:55	147.285	59	Repeater Net

Fairbanks- Morse schematic from Riders Vol 5.

QSL's are greatly appreciated. 73 Bill

Owen Garriott – W5LFL Silent Key





From Don – K5DB:

One of the personages I included in my "Famous Radio Hams" presentation at the April BVRC meeting was Dr. Owen Garriott, former NASA astronaut and probably the best known "astronaut ham" in past decades. It is with great sadness to report him as a Silent Key.

Owen was born in Enid, OK in 1930, and passed away on April 15 in Huntsville, AL.

In 1973 he spent 60 days aboard the Skylab space station, the first United States space station launched and operated by NASA, as part of a three-man crew for the Skylab 3 mission. In 1983 he spent 10 days on board the Space Shuttle Columbia as part of the Spacelab-1 mission, a joint NASA and European Space Agency program to demonstrate the capability to conduct advanced scientific experiments in outer space. He served in the United States Navy from 1953 to 1956, and in 1965 was one of six astronauts selected by NASA. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame in 1980, the United States Astronaut Hall of Fame in 1997, and the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2000. Along with his Skylab crewmates, Alan Bean and Jack Lousma, he was awarded the Robert J. Collier Trophy in 1973 and received the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy from President Gerald Ford.

One of Owen's most famous QSOs was with King Hussein of Jordan – JY1, while Owen was a crew member on the space shuttle Columbia. You can hear it here .

BVRC VE REPORT

April 13, 2019



Congratulations!

Bonner Tindle – KI5DUV – New General!
Noel Morris – NM5AB – New Member & Amateur Extra!

Test sessions are conducted each 2nd Saturday of the month, 2 pm, at the Highland Christian Church in Bella Vista

Help promote the availability of the Club's monthly test sessions. Tell your friends and acquaintances!



NEW BVRC MEMBERS !!!

Scotty Baker – KW5SVB – Rogers
Scott Branyan – KI5DJP – Rogers
Sonya Dawson – Anderson, MO
Bill Dean – ACØQU – Bella Vista
Shane Fitsmaurice – KG5ZBQ – Rogers
Noel Morris – NM5AB – Springdale
Bill Reineka – KG5TNY – West Fork
Bonner Tindle – KI5DUV – Rogers
Greg Turner – K5GJT – Pea Ridge
Susan Walker – KI5CXH – Cave Springs
Jesse Weiberg – WØMIX – Seligman, MO



THE SIGNAL has been reminding you along the way since January that Field Day 2019 is coming…. by the time you read this, it will be just 8 weeks away! *DON'T MISS THIS!*

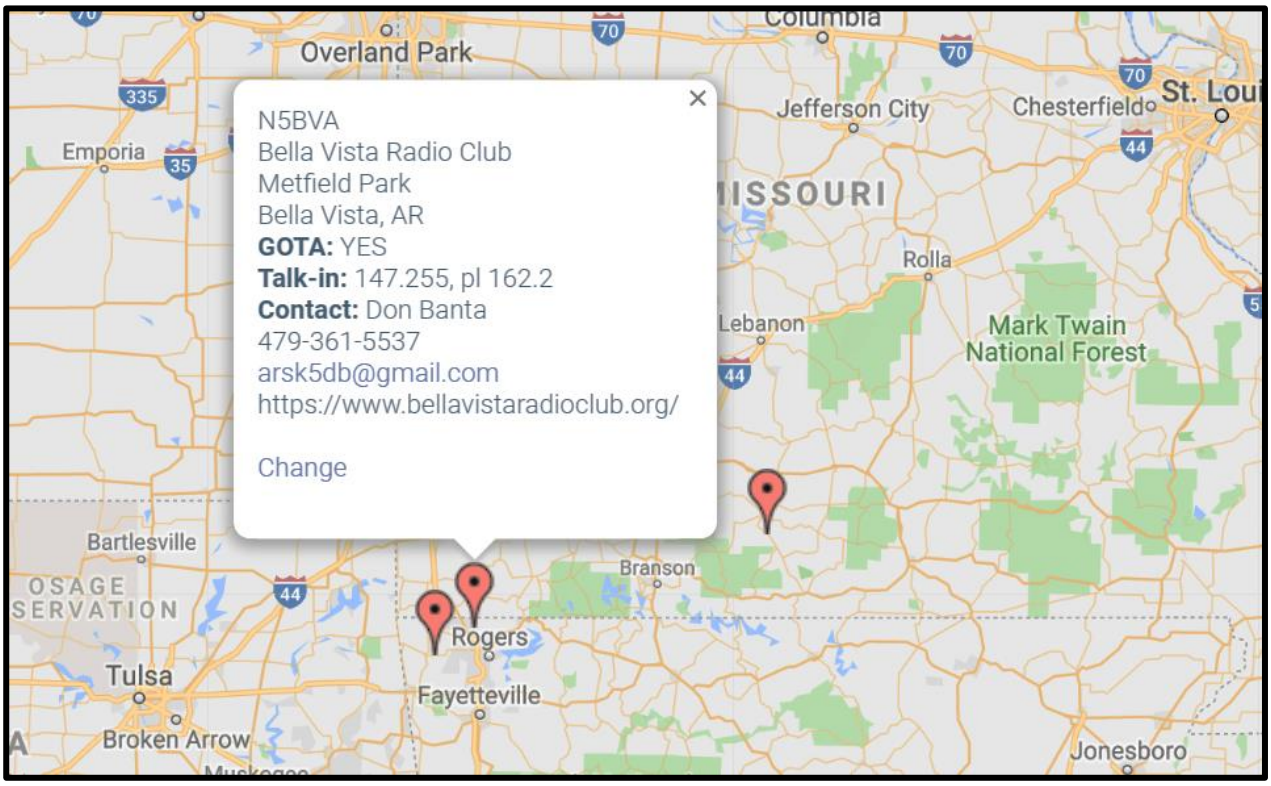
Don – K5DB is this year's Field Day Coordinator. Steve – K5SAW has just secured the Metfield pavilion for us for this year's event (THANKS STEVE!!!). If you're interested in set-up, tear-down, operating, volunteering your HF transceiver for either the SSB, Digital, or GOTA stations (CW is already covered), coax, portable antenna, and any other miscellaneous gear and supplies, we welcome your talents! Not only just a contest, this is what Field Day is all about – learning how to set-up a quality portable station, contest fun of course, and food and fellowship!

We are currently in need of 4 main positions:

- **SSB Station Captain**
- **Digital Station Captain**
- **GOTA Station Captain**
- **Food and Snacks Captain**

If you are interested in helping with these, or wish to volunteer to help in any area of the Field Day fun, contact Don at: arsk5db@gmail.com !!!

Don already has BVRC on the ARRL Field Day Locator page on the ARRL website!
(See top of next page……..)



ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of amateur radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walka-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur radio people are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SAT/SUN, JUNE 22-23 !!!

HAM 101

THE SIGNAL Monthly Column for New Hams

SETTING-UP YOUR FIRST HF STATION

Are you a newer ham? Is "ham radio" to you just HTs and local repeaters? If so, this month's HAM-101 article is for you……

This article is not an authoritative tutorial, but rather is intended as a little encouragement and push in the right direction, to setting-up your first HF station. Some of you have voiced HF aspirations, and it's only a matter of time before you're up and running with your very own shack. However, a few of you simply need to cross a few barriers – some physical, but some are needlessly mental.



Let's explore a few:

1) "IT'S EXPENSIVE" – I can be, but it doesn't have to be. There are used radios and QRP kits that can alleviate these cost issues. The simplest solution is to allow an Elmer to let you see and work some of their stations (this will probably be just around the corner with BVRC's HAM-101 group! Updates will be forthcoming, so watch for that in future SIGNAL issues.) Cost is not as big of an issue as you might expect.

2) "IT'S COMPLICATED" – The directive from the



FCC rules state that the ham radio avocation is an ever-learning hobby, where skills are constantly increased, and continued education is the goal. You passed the Tech test, didn't you? The General and Extra exams are simply continuations and require not much more than persistence to achieve those upgrades. Your Elmers (and BVRC abounds with them) are willing to share their years of knowledge and experience, and will be your best advisors and teachers.

3) "I HAVE DEED RESTRICTIONS AND COVENANTS; THEY WON'T ALLOW ME TO PUT UP ANTENNAS" – It is true that many newer neighborhoods have HOA restrictions which include 'no antenna' rules. There are many ways around these restrictions. Many hams deal with them constantly, and still manage to get on the air. Like a sport, surpassing challenges like these carry their own rewards. There are many publications and articles on stealth antennas and several companies sell discrete antenna outdoor solutions.

4) "I'M JUST FINE WITH MY HT." - Really? (Why are you a ham, then?) The fact of the matter is that you might simply be lacking the experiences that bring-on a desire and appreciation for other aspects of the hobby such as HF. For instance: Many hams are initially apprehensive to using SSB, CW, or digital modes, but once they are taught how to use them and given the opportunity to get on the air several times, you'll see these once shy operators become avid experts. Was it expertise they developed by repetition? Not really. Actually, it was most likely the good feelings they developed from meeting like-minded folks on the air and the memory of the good conversations they had. Why do hams love their hobby? It's not necessarily the gear or the interest in the technical aspects, but the relationships with the people they met. Amateur radio is a true social medium.

"WHERE DO I START?", you may ask – With education. Your General license can't be granted, of course, until you've studied the question pool and the manual. And in the same vein, you can't properly get on the air with your General ticket until you understand the procedures and rules. To start from the beginning, let's start with the term "HF". It stands for high frequency, or "the high frequency band". It's the allocation of frequencies that run between 1.8 MHz and 29.680 MHz. Radio frequencies in the range have the special property of bouncing-off the Earth's ionospher allowing you to reach far distances across the nation and around the globe. You'll need to learn the basics of radio propagation first.



Then you'll have to learn about the different operating modes and signal types, as well as the procedures when making contacts (or "QSO"'s) and the regulations required by both the law and "gentlemen's agreements." The General license manuals are your best source to garner an initial grasp on the subject of HF operation. Once you have a radio installed with a resonant antenna, even with very little power, you are in fact able to communicate around the world. There is also the wealth of learning and resources available in the various magazines and books published on the subject.



Are you expected to learn all of these procedures, rules and regs, and technical stuff yourself? Of course not! You need an "Elmer"! An "Elmer" is the nickname of anyone that is a mentor in the hobby. Your Elmer should not only willing to "show you the ropes" but be there to help you get the experience and knowledge needed to not only set up your own station but get on the air yourself with confidence. Consider logging time at an Elmer's station. Every long-time ham will tell you that they had an Elmer or two that would let them get on the air as they were learning how to be a ham themselves. The "Book" is simply not enough, and this hobby requires a lot of on-the-job-training.



As you'll know by this point – you'll need a 'rig' (the term used for a transceiver radio). Don't sweat the small stuff for now; concentrate on the big items first. If you get your 'rig' then you're halfway there.

"WHAT KIND OF RIG DO I GET AND WHERE DO I GET IT FROM?" – These are good questions for your Elmer, but let's cover the basics. Even a new mobile

rig fresh out of the box will cost you no less than $800.



"New" may not be the best choice for the “new” ham. There are many used rigs out there with much lower price tags, even in the $200-$400 range. E-Bay and Craig's List are good places to look if you can manage bids and mystery sellers, but believe it or not, there may be a few members of your local club that have rigs in need of a good home, even for very little scratch. Or, another option to consider is that this may be your time to consider a hamfest or swapmeet trip. You'll get quite an education when surrounded by hundreds of hams with similar interests. If you need to run a digital mode, then you'll have to procure something a little more modern, but if SSB or CW is fine for you, then don't worry about the age of the rig and how antiquated its circuitry is. Make sure that it works and avoid purchasing any rig sold under the banner of "As Is" or "Needs Repair". If it comes with tube type circuitry (tubes look like cylindrical light bulbs with metal parts inside), don't be afraid to consider this option. You can enjoy using a tube rig and be comfortably on the air with only a little extra training. Many hams feel that tube rigs sound better on the air anyway, and some come with more power output. In addition to posting rigs for sale from time to time, the BVRC website will also publish your requests for station equipment – just ask.



If you're starting off in HF you should make sure that your rig is able to do both Single Side Band (USB/LSB) voice and Continuous Wave (CW or a Morse Code signal), and it should come with a microphone, so you don't have to worry about finding that later. "How much power should it have?" Most mode modern rigs come with 100 Watts PEP standard, or what they call 'barefoot' power. This is more than sufficient power to get you around the globe easily. But even 1 or 10 Watts can get you far.



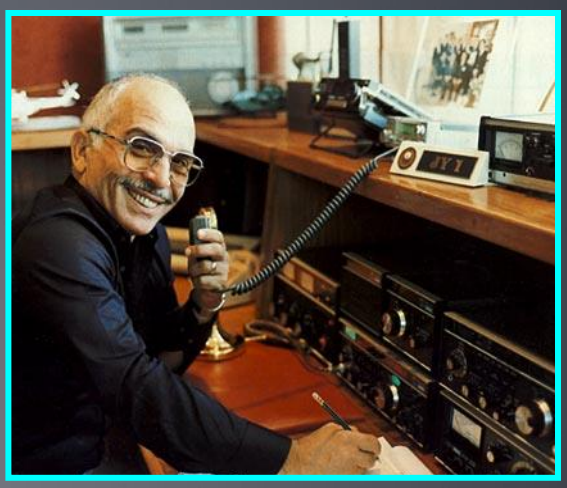
Low-power communication is called 'QRP' and many enjoyable contacts are made all the time by QRP enthusiasts. By the way, QRP rigs often come in kit form and cost anywhere from $50-$250. However, taking this route may require previous electronics and kit-building experience. For the purpose of this article, if you are new to the game, find a basic 100 Watt rig with basic features.



After you get your ‘rig’, then you’ll have to get ahold of the rest of the gear – an antenna, antenna tuner, BALUN, power supply, cables. etc. Getting into a full description of each station accessory would fill a book. Many articles are written in periodicals such as QST just for the purpose of covering these details. It’s a hobby for the sake of the hobby, of course. But you have to start somewhere. Let us reiterate that there is no need for a new ham or “HT-only ham” to feel apprehensive about trying-out HF. There are many seasoned hams willing to walk you through it all and provide ample guidance. Be encouraged to give HF a chance – you may find yourself becoming an “HF ham”!

An Embarassing Moment in Ham Radio or… My "QSO" with Jordan's King Hussein – JY1

By Bob - WBØAUQ



A few months ago, in discussion of the BVRC Newsletter with Don – K5DB, I suggested an idea for a future article. Don's reply was "You bet! Type it up and send to me." As so often happens to newsletter editors, I forgot. From my past experience as a newsletter editor I believe this happens fairly frequently. One has what they think is a great idea but then fail to follow through. Good intentions gone astray.

Attendees at the BVRC April meeting will r ecall the very interesting program "Famous Hams," presented by no other than Don – K5DB. One of the photos of a famous ham was Jordan's King Hussein – JY1 ("JY for the country prefix, number "1", of course). This brought back to memory the idea presented to Don several months previously, and this serves as an introduction to my "embarrassing moment in ham radio."

And now my story:
Old timers will recall *73 Magazine* and the infamous editor Wayne Green – W2NSD (Never Say Die). Wayne was a real promoter, as well as being controversial, egotistical, and of the character many loved to hate. But he was highly successful in printing *73* from about 1960 to 2003, as well as creating several computer-related monthly magazines.

The June 1970 issue of *73 Magazine* had Hussein/JY1 on the cover, sitting in front of his extensive Drake radios, much as shown in Don's photo. All serious DXers were striving for a QSO with JY1.

In 1970 I was yet a Novice, confined to crystal control homebrew transmitter, one crystal for 80, three for 40, and one crystal for 15 meters. Since we were crystal-controlled, standard practice was to send CQ then tune up and down the band hoping to hear a reply on the other ham's crystal frequency.

Late one afternoon I decided to see if there were any activity on 15 meters. I heard a couple of weak signals, too weak to try calling, so the next step was to call CQ. After many CQs and tuning up and down, I heard a strong station exactly on my frequency sending my call (WNØAUQ), but he was initially sending too fast for me to copy his call. After several attempts and "QRZ", he slowed down and I copied "JY1"! This can't be! Hussein is calling me! We exchanged signal reports but he then faded out, but enough of an exchange for a legitimate QSO! I, of course, immediately telephoned my Elmer, Ken – WAØSEV, to report my rare DX contact. Neither of us could believe the QSO.

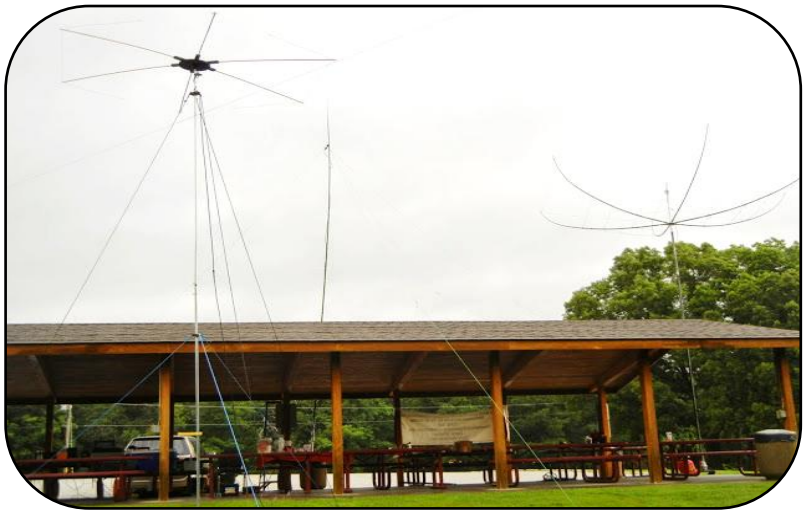
At our next DCARC (Douglas County ARC, KS) Club meeting Ken bragged to a couple of real DXers that I had talked with JY1. They knew I was a Novice so the contact would have been on CW. Their reply was, "JY1 works SSB only, he does not use CW, you worked a bootlegger." (A "bootlegger" was a guy who, licensed or not, used someone else's ham call. It was quite prevalent at one time.) Yes, I was embarrassed and suffered their good-natured kidding.

It was a good feeling while it lasted. And no, I did not attempt to get a QSL card from Hussein.

Note: All issues of *73 Magazine* are available for free download (PDF format) here:
https://archive.org/details/73-magazine

If you are not familiar with the magazine, or even if you are, I recommend you take a look at them. There are many construction articles and ham news of the day, albeit somewhat dated, but some of Wayne's editorials can be an amusing read.

Pics from past BVRC Field Days !!!!









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